

DA Town Council Unofficial Report for
Thursday, October 15, 2009

ROADS - Mark Hull reported that the left over calcium chloride from last year will be used up. Since obtaining rock salt should not be a problem this year, the salt will be purchased as needed. A milder winter is forecast for this year. Last year's plowing service will be used again this year. Digging a dry well is being considered to solve the water-pooling problem at the intersection of Circle and East Roads. The asphalt is holding up, however.

PARKS -- Although the Port-A-Lets are gone for the season, the garbage receptacles are still in place at the East Beach parking lot, Ridge Dr beach access and tennis courts. As far as the flooding plan goes, nothing has been decided resulting from the Weaver Boos study yet. You should expect an announcement to be made no later than the start of spring 2010 -- even if the recommendation is to do nothing. Perhaps the only benefit of the massive flooding is that the gophers that populated the park seemed to have moved to drier ground.

BEACH -- Mr. Carstens reported that the Alliance for the Great Lakes Clean Up went well. A lot of large stuff was hauled out but it's the little stuff -- cigarette butts and bits of plastic -- that is the problem. The boats are starting to be pulled off the beach for the winter. The Town Council confirmed that the Hobies may be stored on the dunes, with the masts taken down. The state is sending DA funds for "lake front improvements." The Town Council wants a walkway built from the East Beach parking lot to the lake. Hopefully there will be no strings attached. Finally, if you (or your kids or grandkids) have toys at the Ridge Street Beach, please collect them or they will be given to a charity.

BUILDING -- Lou Mellen reported that there was no October Plan Commission meeting since no new projects are starting. The new house project at 12 Ridge Dr has started. The on-going projects at 9 Beach Dr, 31 East Rd and 22 Summit Dr continue. If you would like some green, cut (but not split) firewood, call Mr. Mellen.

SECURITY -- To go along with the new security cameras (see below), a security gate to prevent driving behind the Security Office will be installed soon.

ENVIRONMENT -- Cathy Bomberger brought in a sample of bittersweet to show what it looks like. Autumn Olive, Barberry and Burning Bush were tagged for destruction as well as bittersweet. The Town Clean Up, focusing on the removal of these plants, is on Saturday, Oct 24, 9pm,

Town Hall. You should also be clearing these plants from your own property.

DEER -- The deer cull has started. A little over 70 deer can be taken this season.

CLUBHOUSE -- The Clubhouse roof needs spot repairs before winter. We are still waiting to hear back from the roofer.

Golf Carts -- The second and final reading of the golf cart ordinance, amended as the result of the public workshop held on September 28, passed.

Security Cameras -- \$2,500 was approved for a 9-channel DVD reader/writer with six motion-activated cameras. The system is essentially plug and play, and will use the existing locations and wiring. However, two new cameras will be located low in order to video license plate numbers. The system will accept up to three additional cameras. An additional camera could be installed at the east end's emergency drive, for example. The new video security system should be installed by the end of October/early November. If Security is not happy with the results, the equipment can be returned within 30 days for a full refund.

Trick or Treating is scheduled on Saturday, October 31 from 5 - 8pm, at least for the kids.

For DA full time residents the referendum voting for the proposed Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) will be at the Town Hall on Tuesday, November 3. State legislation calls for a referendum on creating a RTA, which, if approved by voters, will have authority to levy a 0.25 percent income tax in Porter, Lake, LaPorte and St. Joseph counties. If you'd like to expand government and increase your tax bite, vote "yes." If you feel the government is large enough and that you already pay enough taxes, vote "no."

Bob Evans, Editor
October 17, 2009

Note: This report covers only pertinent details that may be of interest to DA residents in general. The official Town Council Minutes will be posted on the DA website after the Town Council approves them at which time this report will be removed.